

- οὐρανὸν εἰσανιῶν οἱδ' οὐρανόθεν καταβαίνων.
 τῶν ἕτερος μὲν γῆν τε καὶ εὐρέα νῶτα θαλάσσης
 ἥσυχος ἀνστρέφεται καὶ μείλιχος ἀνθρώποισι,
 τοῦ δὲ σιδηρῆ μὲν κραδίη, χάλκεον δέ οἱ ἦτορ
 765 ἠηλεὲς ἐν στήθεσσιν· ἔχει δ' ὃν πρῶτα λάβησιν
 ἀνθρώπων· ἐχθρὸς δὲ καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν.
 ἔνθα θεοῦ χθονίου πρόσθεν δόμοι ἠχήμεντες
 ἰφθίμου τ' Ἀΐδεω καὶ ἐπαινῆς Περσεφονείης
 ἐστᾶσιν, δεινὸς δὲ κύων προπάροιθε φυλάσσει,
 770 ἠηλειῆς, τέχνην δὲ κακὴν ἔχει· ἐς μὲν ἰόντας
 σαίνει ὁμῶς οὐρῇ τε καὶ οὐασιν ἀμφοτέροισιν,
 ἐξελθεῖν δ' οὐκ αὖτις ἐᾷ πάλιν, ἀλλὰ δοκεῖων
 ἐσθλῆι, ὃν κε λάβησι πυλέων ἔκτοσθεν ἰόντα.
 ἰφθίμον τ' Ἀΐδεω καὶ ἐπαινῆς Περσεφονείης.
 775 εἴθ' αὖ δὲ ναιετάει στυγερὴ θεὸς ἀθανάτοισι,
 δεινὴ Στίξ, θυγάτηρ αἰθορρόου Ὀκεανοῖο
 πρεσβυτάτη νόσφιν δὲ θεῶν κλυτὰ δώματα ναίει
 μακρῆσιν πέτρῃσι κατηρεφέ· ἀμφὶ δὲ πᾶντι
 κίουσιν ἀργυρέουσι πρὸς οὐρανὸν ἐστήρικται.
 780 παῦρα δὲ Θαύμαντος θυγάτηρ πόδας ὤκεια Ἴρις
 ἀγγελίῃ πωλεῖται ἐπ' εὐρέα νῶτα θαλάσσης.
 ὁππότε ἔρις καὶ νεῖκος ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν ὄρηται,
 καὶ ῥ' ὅστις ψεύδεται Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἐχόντων,
 Ζεὺς δὲ τε Ἴριν ἐπεμψε θεῶν μέγαν ὄρκον ἐνείκαι
 785 τηλόθεν ἐν χρυσῇ προχόῳ πολιώνυμον ὕδωρ,
 ψυχρόν, ὃ τ' ἐκ πέτρης καταλείβεται ἠλιβάτοιο

768 om. Π29, Pat. 2772: susp. Wolf

774 habet r, om. ak

781 ἀγγελίῃ Guyet. -ίη Π5² Δ; ἀγγελίην Scorial. Φ III 16
 -ίης U2 Vat. 2155m2: -ίης Stephanus

THEOGONY

up into the sky nor when he comes back down from the sky. One of them passes gently over the earth and the broad back of the sea and is soothing for human beings. But the other one's temper is of iron, and the bronze heart in his chest is pitiless: once he takes hold of any human, he owns him; and he is hateful even for the immortal gods.

(767) That is where, in front, stand the echoing houses of the earthly god, of powerful Hades and of dread Persephone, and a terrible dog guards them in front, pitiless. He has an evil trick: upon those going in he fawns alike with his tail and with both ears, but he does not let them leave again: instead, observing them closely he devours whomever he catches trying to go out from the gates of powerful Hades and dread Persephone.

(775) That is where the goddess dwells who is loathsome for the immortals, terrible Styx,⁴¹ the oldest daughter of backward-flowing Ocean. She lives apart from the gods in a famous mansion vaulted with great crags; it is set fast upon silver pillars on every side reaching toward the sky all around. Seldom does Thetis' daughter, swift-footed Iris, travel to her with a message upon the broad back of the sea: whenever strife and quarrel arise among the immortals and one of those who have their mansions on Olympus tells a lie, Zeus sends Iris to bring from afar in a golden jug the great oath of the gods, the much-renowned water, icy, which pours down from a great, lofty